**PERSONAL PROFILE**

Alyssa M. Hislop

**Basic Background Information**

My story began on a beautiful wintery day over 18 years ago on Jan. 14th, 1999. I was born into a loving home with amazing parents and I was so lucky to have an older brother and sister who, according to my parents, completely doted over me! I grew up in Layton Utah and had a little sister complete our family two years later. I was raised with a firm background in the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and was baptized when I turned 8 years old. I have a large extended family. My Mom is the youngest of eleven children so you can imagine the fun and good times that goes along with that. We have many get-togethers and I am very close to my 34 cousins. This is very imbalanced compared to my father’s side of the family where I only have three cousins from my one uncle and aunt. I most definitely prefer the big family!! My last name is Hislop, however my original last name is Castano, which is Italian. To be truthful, I’d prefer this last name over Hislop any day. I am part German, Scottish, and Italian. (which is where I get my sassy-spitfire personality)

**Interests and Hobbies**

Ever since I can remember, I have loved art. I simply love to create it. I love to perceive art and I try to be observant and recognize art in our everyday lives. Art literally surrounds us! One of the most common places I find art is in nature. I absolutely love the outdoors, whether I am camping, fishing, hiking, or even just going for a walk outside. I also love hanging out with my friends and playing games with my family. Some people might say that the fact that I love cleaning and organizing is crazy. However, I always keep a clean room and can often be found re-organizing my room or helping my mom clean the house. One thing that has always been very close to my heart is music. I play the piano, I love to sing and love listening to all kinds of music. You could say I am passionate about music! I listen to music throughout most of my day. I believe music can have a powerful impact on us, good or bad. Just like with my art, I love how much emotion you can feel and how much of an influence music can have on a person’s life. For me, the impact music has is beyond words. I enjoy listening to almost any genre, however my very favorite is Country. This may be one of the big reasons as to why I love to go on road trips and travel. I have a passion for going to new places, making strangers become friends, and learning about other’s cultures. My bucket list is basically just filled with places I want to visit (basically the entire world) and all sorts of different adventures. Luckily, I have already had the opportunity to travel to Illinois, South Dakota, California, and Mexico. A small list for now however, hopefully in years to come this list will be much bigger.

**My favorite Place**

When I try to think of my favorite place in the whole entire world, the first place that comes to mind is the beach. Now I have only been to the beach a handful of times in my life however, when I am there I feel like I am in my “happy place.” To me, nothing beats laying on a large, soft beach towel, hearing the waves crashing on the sand and feeling the sun beating down on my face while watching people surf. There are many reasons the beach is my favorite place, one of them is that laying on the beach is so relaxing! I can tune out the rest of the world, forget about life’s realities and simply relax and unwind. I find myself tuning out my responsibilities or problems and begin people watching, wondering if everyone around me is appreciating the opportunity of enjoying time there like I am. I truly appreciate the beauty of the ocean and the surroundings on a beach. From palm trees, to children playing, to teenagers playing volleyball and people playing frisbee with their dogs, it is a beautiful sight to take in, for sure! I also love to look out on the ocean not being able to see where it ends. I try and wrap my mind around the enormous space the salt water fills and all the lovely creatures that its home to. You literally use all five senses when you’re on the beach. When I was young, my Mom often called me a fish out of water and I guess some things just don’t change. I have always loved swimming, whether I’m playing in a swimming pool or jumping in the waves of the ocean.

**My next step**

I am excited to graduate from Weber State University with my Associates degree in General Studies in one year. Then depending on what happens between now and then, I will either continue my education and immediately earn my Bachelor’s degree, or I may take a semester off and participate in a humanitarian trip. I have always dreamed of being involved in a humanitarian trip ever since my older sister Ashlyn went to Taiwan for a month and was able to teach young children English. She thoroughly enjoying this opportunity and to this day, I remember the stories she told about the experiences she had. From that moment, I decided that is something I would love to do and I added it to my bucket list. This correlates well with my desire to travel. The way I look at it, I want to travel anyway so I may as well serve as I go. That is the plan for looking farther in the future. For the more recent future, I am excited about going on another cruise with my family to the Mexican Riviera this December. I am thrilled about this vacation because I am planning on swimming with Dolphins while we are there. Check…another item on the bucket list. Life is great and I can’t wait to see what the future holds!